Michael F. Easley
Governor

State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY OFFERS TIPS FOR REDUCING HOLIDAY TRASH

RALEIGH — Gov. Mike Easley encourages North Carolinians to plan family holiday celebrations that are safe, happy and environmentally friendly. According to the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA), holiday preparations, including gift giving, holiday decorations and food preparation, increase the nation's trash by an extra one million tons per week during the five weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

"We can enjoy the merriment of the season without doing harm to the environment," said Easley. "If each of us makes an effort, we can help reduce waste while enjoying the holiday traditions."

The DCPPEA offers the following tips:

- Use decorative, reusable boxes and bags for gift giving instead of wrapping paper. If you must wrap, consider newspaper comics or fabric.

- Recycle used ribbons, bows, gift bags and decorative wrappings.

- Use reusable bags when shopping. Return plastic bags to stores for recycling.

- Use reusable plates, cups and silverware instead of disposable ones.

- If a tree is part of your celebration, buy one that can be replanted in your yard. If you cannot replant your tree, compost it after the holidays along with wreaths and other live decorations. Contact your local recycling office or visit http://www.p2pays.org/localgov/PAYT/ncwaste.asp to find out how.

- If your holiday gifts include new electronic gadgets and you need to discard your older electronics, recycle them instead of throwing them away. Talk to your local solid waste officials or visit http://www.p2pays.org/localgov/PAYT/ncwaste.asp to see if your community has an electronics recycling program in place.

For additional tips on reducing holiday waste, please visit the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance website at http://www.p2pays.org and click on "Battery Guy."

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